
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

BUSINESS MEETING

U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
115TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
WASHINGTON, DC.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:36 a.m., in Room S-116, The Capitol,
2 Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 Present: Senators Corker [presiding], Risch, Rubio, Johnson, Flake, Gardner,
4 Young, Isakson, Paul, Menendez, Shaheen, Coons, Udall, Murphy, Kaine, Markey,
5 Merkley, and Booker.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CORKER, U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I will call the committee to order and go through the opening
7 comments so that we are able to act when we have a quorum. But thank all of you for
8 being here.

9 The committee is called to order. Today we are going to consider five treaties,
10 seven pieces of legislation, and 10 nominations. The five treaties we will consider
11 include extradition treaties with Serbia and Kosovo, boundary treaties with the
12 Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Kiribati, and the UN Convention on
13 the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade.

14 The extradition treaties with Serbia and Kosovo will update the terms and
15 conditions for extradition between the United States and these two countries, replacing

1 an existing 1901 treaty between the United States and the Kingdom of Servia. The new
2 extradition treaties would replace an outdated list of extraditable offenses with a
3 modern “dual criminality” approach, enabling extradition for offenses like money
4 laundering, cybercrimes, and other offenses not listed in the 1901 treaty. These two
5 treaties are similar in design to the Dominican Republic and Chile extradition treaties
6 approved by the Senate in the last Congress.

7 The boundary treaties with Micronesia and Kiribati would formally establish our
8 maritime boundaries in the South Pacific Ocean with these two neighboring countries
9 along the lines of existing practice. The State Department estimates the new boundaries
10 in these treaties would together result in a small net gain of the United States' exclusive
11 economic zone with respect to these two countries.

12 The U.N. Convention on Receivables will reduce legal uncertainty for cross-
13 border assignments of receivables in international trade. This treaty, which closely
14 follows U.S. commercial law, is expected to promote the availability of capital and
15 credit for both U.S. small- and medium-sized businesses as well as for businesses in
16 developing countries that adopt the Convention. The Convention has the strong
17 support of the U.S. business community.

18 We will consider S. Res. 85, a resolution calling on the Government of Iran to
19 fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest-held
20 United States civilian in our nation's history. I would like to thank Senators Rubio and

1 Nelson for their support of this resolution which calls on the Iranian government to
2 fulfill its repeated promises to assist in locating and returning Mr. Levinson to his
3 family. And I think his family member -- does he serve on your staff?

4 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** His son.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yeah, his son. We will also consider S. Res. 224, a resolution
6 recognizing the anniversary of the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, and
7 commemorating his legacy and commitment to democratic values and principles. I
8 would like to thank Senator Durbin for authoring this resolution and Senator Menendez
9 for working with us to update the text. I would also like to recognize Senators Rubio
10 and Merkley for co-sponsoring the resolution.

11 We will take up S. Res. 376, a resolution urging the Governments of Burma and
12 Bangladesh to ensure the safe, dignified, voluntary, and sustainable return of the
13 Rohingya refugees who have been displaced by ethnic cleansing conducted by the
14 Burmese military. I want to thank Senators Merkley, Kaine, Gardner, Rubio, Young,
15 Booker, Coons, and Markey for their leadership on U.S. policy towards Burma. The
16 Rohingya have suffered to an unimaginable degree, and they should be able to return
17 home in a voluntary, safe, and dignified manner.

18 S. Res. 426 is a resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day. I
19 think it goes without saying that the United States should continue to be a leader in
20 promoting the empowerment of women and girls throughout the world, including in

1 critical peacemaking and security efforts. I would like to thank Senators Shaheen,
2 Collins, Cardin, Coons, and Murphy for their leadership on these issues, and I am
3 pleased that we are ready to move this resolution through our committee.

4 S. Res. 429 is a resolution commemorating the 59th anniversary of Tibet's 1959
5 uprising as "Tibetan Rights Day," and expressing support for the human rights and
6 religious freedom of their people and the Buddhist faith community. I would like to
7 thank Senators Leahy, Cruz, Feinstein, and Rubio for their support of this important
8 bipartisan resolution.

9 We are also going to take up S. Res. 432, a resolution congratulating the Baltic
10 states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the 100th anniversary of their declarations of
11 independence. I would like to recognize Senators Johnson, Murphy, and Risch for their
12 support of this timely resolution.

13 Finally, we will consider H.R. 1660, the Global Health Innovation Act, which will
14 strengthen USAID's commitment to achieving global health goals and increase
15 transparency. I want to thank Senator Menendez, Chairman Royce, and Congressman
16 Sires for their support of this legislation.

17 Senator Menendez, I would like to turn to you for any comments you might
18 have.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BOB MENENDEZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

1 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a number of
2 resolutions before us today, and I support their swift passage. In particular, I strongly
3 support S. Res. 85, which calls on the Government of Iran to fulfill its promises of
4 assistance in the case of Robert Levinson. There is no question that Tehran knows
5 exactly what happened and where Bob is, and they should know that we will never
6 stop until he is back in the United States where he belongs. And we continue to stand
7 today and always with Bob's family, including his daughters Sarah and Samantha who
8 live in New Jersey, and his younger son who works in my D.C. office. And I want to
9 thank Senators Rubio and Nelson for their vital resolution.

10 I am also proud to co-sponsor S. Res. 224, commemorating the life of renowned
11 Cuban activist Oswaldo Paya. Paya was one of Cuba's most transformational leaders
12 and an individual capable of channeling the collective demands of the Cuban people for
13 greater freedom and human rights. Tragically, he was killed in a July 2012 car crash
14 that many of us expect was done by Cuban state security. The *Washington Post* Editorial
15 Board has raised numerous questions about the Cuban government's role in his death.
16 Six years later, his legacy remains strong, and it is not surprising that just 2 weeks ago
17 the Cuban government detained and deported two former Latin American presidents
18 that were visiting Havana to receive the Oswaldo Paya Award. This resolution will help
19 uphold that legacy.

1 There are a number of other worthy resolutions on the agenda, and I support
2 passage of them all. I salute the members who have brought them forth. And, in
3 particular, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for your willingness to consider H.R.
4 1660, the Global Health Innovation Act of 2017 that Congressman Sires, my
5 congressman in New Jersey, is acting as the lead.

6 I am pleased that we have before us resolutions of advice and consent for five
7 treaties. My understanding is that all of these treaties have received the full support of
8 stakeholders in the United States who strongly support their passage. These are the
9 first treaties to be considered by this committee in the 115th Congress, and I hope they
10 will not be the last. Treaty consideration is a critical part of our job on this committee.
11 They enhance and increase stability in an uncertain world. They can deliver material
12 and tangible benefits to the United States, its citizens, and its businesses.

13 Finally, we have a number of qualified nominations on the agenda today, and I
14 support their swift advancement and confirmation. However, there is one nominee
15 where I have serious concerns, which I want to discuss now.

16 Concerning Sean Cairncross' nomination to be CEO of the Millennium Challenge
17 Corporation, the MCC, we have recently learned about some very troubling
18 developments in the ways that a senior leader at MCC, placed there by the Trump
19 Administration, has spoken to employees about political preferences, sexual orientation,
20 and national origin. I appreciate that the nominee has said that if confirmed he would

1 evaluate and address the matter, both with respect to this particular employee and the
2 wider issue of diversity at the MCC. Nevertheless, I remain concerned with the
3 nominee's complete lack of foreign affairs, international development, which is the
4 focus of the MCC, and Federal agency experience.

5 Furthermore, I remain troubled by comments the nominee has previously made
6 regarding voter registration efforts, claims of voter suppression, as well as allegations
7 involving racial discrimination. For all of these reasons, I am strongly opposing the
8 nomination of Mr. Cairncross, and I will request a separate roll call vote on the
9 nominee.

10 Lastly, Mr. Chairman, at the appropriate time, I hope we can have a discussion
11 on the question of Yemen, and I know there are some pending considerations before the
12 committee. And I certainly will appreciate that opportunity when the time is right.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Very good. What we might do, without objection, is move all
14 five of the treaties and then move to additional business. And if there are any members
15 that would like to speak to the treaties at this moment -- we are going to move to other
16 business, but I would be glad to entertain any comments.

17 **SENATOR RISCH.** Briefly, Mr. Chairman. Pursuant to your direction, I presided
18 over the hearing on all five of those treaties. There was bipartisan support for them,
19 and there is nothing but peace, and harmony, and tranquility.

20 [Laughter.]

1 **SENATOR RISCH.** -- that happened there. I think we should just pass them.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If there are no other comments, I would like to entertain a
4 motion to approve the resolutions of advice and consent to the five treaties on the
5 agenda, en bloc, by voice vote.

6 **SENATOR RISCH.** I so move.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second?

8 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Second.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So moved and seconded. The question is on the motion to
10 approve the resolutions of advice and consent.

11 All those in favor, say aye.

12 [A chorus of ayes.]

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

14 [No response.]

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** With that, the ayes have it, and the resolutions of advice and
16 consent to the treaties are agreed to.

17 What I would like to do because of the way the vote likely will occur -- if the
18 ranking member does not object, I would like to move to the nomination that is
19 objectionable to some members -- if I could and go ahead and deal with that, and then

1 we will deal with the other business. And I understand that, you know, we still have a
2 floor vote for people to express themselves also.

3 So, with that, I would like to consider the nomination of Mr. Cairncross to be
4 Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation. And I assume you
5 want a roll call vote, correct?

6 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** We do. I do not know if any member wants to speak to
7 it, but I definitely want a roll call vote.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** It does not appear that anyone else wishes to speak.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The clerk will call the roll.

10 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Risch?

11 **SENATOR RISCH.** Aye.

12 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Rubio?

13 **SENATOR RUBIO.** Aye.

14 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Johnson?

15 **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Aye.

16 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Flake?

17 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Aye.

18 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Gardner?

19 **SENATOR GARDNER.** Aye.

20 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Young?

1 **SENATOR YOUNG.** Aye.

2 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Barrasso?

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.

4 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Isakson?

5 **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Aye.

6 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Portman?

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.

8 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Paul?

9 **SENATOR PAUL.** Aye.

10 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Menendez?

11 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No.

12 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Cardin?

13 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No by proxy.

14 **THE CLERK.** Mrs. Shaheen?

15 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** No.

16 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Coons?

17 **SENATOR COONS.** Aye.

18 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Udall?

19 **SENATOR UDALL.** No.

20 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Murphy?

1 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No by proxy.

2 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Kaine?

3 **SENATOR Kaine.** No.

4 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Markey?

5 **SENATOR MARKEY.** No.

6 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Merkley?

7 **SENATOR MERKLEY.** No.

8 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Booker?

9 **SENATOR BOOKER.** No.

10 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman?

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye.

12 **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman, the ayes are 12 and the noes are 9.

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** It will be advanced to the floor. Thank you.

14 To Senator Menendez's point, I know we had something on the floor today that
15 deals with Yemen, and the vote is a vote to discharge it from the committee. There has
16 never been anything before the committee on this subject, so it is an interesting
17 maneuver that is occurring. I do not say that in a pejorative way.

18 But I did want to say that, and I think people know this, Senator Young and
19 Senator Shaheen have introduced a bill relative to Yemen. Others may wish to do the
20 same thing, and we plan to have a hearing on Yemen. And typically, when we have

1 important issues to deal with, we deal with them before the committee, we work it
2 through, and we try to advance it to the floor.

3 So, I just wanted to make people aware that, again, this legislation just was
4 produced. I know that they are trying to build support. They are working with other
5 members to try to do so. Again, there may be other pieces of legislation dealing with
6 Yemen. We plan to have a hearing to make sure that we are able to deal with it in an
7 appropriate manner.

8 I think most of you realize we had an impromptu meeting last week because
9 other than people on this committee and maybe on Armed Services, very few people
10 know anything about Yemen. I mean, it is just not something that most people in the
11 Senate are dealing with. That is what this committee does. So, I do want to make you
12 aware, number one, of our desire to deal with it appropriately through legislation. I
13 cannot say which piece that will be, but there will be plenty of people I know offering
14 legislation. We plan to have a hearing.

15 And I think everyone knows also by this point that we plan to have a markup on
16 an AUMF. The date we set is April the 19th. I think that date will likely hold. We have
17 been working with committee members to deal with an AUMF to revise, change what
18 we now have before us from 2001 and 2002. We have been working for a long time
19 building support. I know Senator Flake and Senator Kaine have led on that, and
20 Senator Young and many others have been involved.

1 And I just want you to know that I know there is frustration by many, including
2 me, regarding our congressional prerogatives, and we plan to exercise those, and I think
3 we are attempting to do it at the right time. There have been a lot of constructive
4 discussions around it. By the way, this was not planned because of today's vote. We
5 have been working towards this for some time. But I just wanted to make you aware of
6 the process.

7 And again, this is now an editorial comment, the rest is factual. It is somewhat
8 unusual to discharge from a committee something straight to the floor that is as serious
9 as this issue is. And I hope -- and by the way, the Administration, as you know, says
10 they are not involved in hostilities, so we could, in fact, weaken ourselves by passing
11 something that they totally disregard because of the regard that most Presidents have
12 relative to the act that has been used in the first place.

13 So, with that, Senator Menendez.

14 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, Mr. Chairman, thanks for those comments, and I
15 just want to make sure that I have it right. So, my understanding is that the chair is
16 committed to holding a hearing on Yemen.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** That is correct.

18 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** **AND** that subsequently at some point in the reasonable
19 future, the chair is committed to a markup on the Shaheen-Young or some version of
20 that.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Some version of some Yemen bill to deal with this issue.

2 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Okay. And that an AUMF markup will take place on
3 April the 19th.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** We have targeted the 19th.

5 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Okay.

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Believe me, and I hope that it occurs. I do not know --

7 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** But we are going to have a markup on the AUMF.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** We plan to have a markup in April, that is correct.

9 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, Mr. Chairman, that is very helpful because I
10 believe in regular order. I believe that the committee exists for a reason, and I believe
11 that substantive information on critical issues should have an appropriate vetting. So,
12 with those commitments, I think it creates for me personally a different paradigm about
13 how we proceed forward, and I appreciate your commitments to that.

14 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** I have a question.

15 **SENATOR YOUNG.** Please.

16 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** You go ahead because I will do my question with my
17 comments as well.

18 **SENATOR YOUNG.** I just want to say a few words on Yemen. I am going to give a
19 speech later today on the floor about this topic. As a number of folks know, I have been
20 following this situation, actively involved in the humanitarian crisis for some period of

1 time. We have made significant progress. The Red Sea ports are open. We are not
2 seeing the sort of delivery we would like, but we are seeing humanitarian delivery.
3 Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands of lives have been saved.

4 But this remains the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. It has national
5 security implications to peace, which are not natural allies with the Iranians, and have
6 been, I believe, radicalized based on all the briefings I have received and in addition to
7 ISIS and AQAP. So, we share the same objectives. We want to deal with the largest
8 humanitarian crisis in the world, and ultimately we want to bring this civil war to the
9 end.

10 And so, question is how we best achieve this. And so, I just think it is important
11 we frame it that way. The Foreign Relations Committee ought to be walking point on
12 this. I am so glad that I had that reinforced not just by the chairman, but the ranking
13 member. We are unified in a bipartisan way in that fashion. We also need to make sure
14 that we actually are supportive of something that can pass. And, you know, with
15 respect to our resolution, I am not wedded to our resolution, but I will say this Venn
16 diagram between Republicans, and Democrats, and the Administration, and, you know,
17 experts on this has gotten pretty tight, and we made substantive changes in recent days
18 to our resolution. I feel very good about it and will look forward to the hearing.

19 With respect to the AUMF, that also is important to remember. The chairman is
20 holding a hearing on this important matter. I think we are at a point between the Kaine-

1 Flake leadership and the chairman's efforts to arrive at some compromise. Our office, I
2 believe, has played a constructive role in getting us to a point where I think we are
3 going to be real close to passage, if not passage, now.

4 And I just want to thank Senator Shaheen for her work, you know, on this
5 resolution. I thank the chairman and his staff, and I will just pass it back to you, Mr.
6 Chairman.

7 **THE CHAIRMAN.** And if I could, we are actually planning to have a markup, not
8 just a hearing, but a markup to mark up --

9 **SENATOR YOUNG.** Yeah. All right, thank you, sir.

10 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Well, I appreciate the work that Senator Young has done,
11 and I got involved because I shared the concern about Yemen, about the humanitarian
12 situation there. I have also had a chance to hear from the Armed Services side as a
13 member of the Armed Services Committee about what is happening there.

14 And I have some concerns about the Sanders-Lee approach, and so that is why I
15 thought trying to look at what might be a more constructive opportunity was worth
16 doing. And I appreciate Senator Murphy's working with us over the weekend and both
17 the chairman and ranking member working with us to try and see if there was
18 something we could all agree to. We have not gotten there yet. That may be an
19 opportunity when we look at the markup.

1 But, Mr. Chairman, in a broader sense, I am very concerned about what has been
2 the position of the Senate on both sides -- I do not think anybody is directly to blame;
3 we cannot blame one side or the other -- to say that we are not going to take up
4 anything that is controversial on the floor of the Senate. And I think we need to debate
5 this issue. I am pleased to hear your statements today.

6 I would hope that Senator McConnell would agree if we take something out of
7 this committee that he will actually bring it to the floor of the Senate because we have
8 not been doing that. And I think it is to the detriment of the challenges facing this
9 country, to the detriment of the role of the Senate, and it really needs to change. And it
10 really needs to change, and it is only going to change if those of us on both sides of the
11 aisle actually go to our leadership and say we really think we need to change the way
12 we are doing business.

13 So, I hope you will advocate -- you and Senator Menendez both will advocate
14 with leadership that this is an issue we should take up on the floor.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** And I know you were not attributing my personal --

16 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** No, I was not, and I appreciate your remarks.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I think that the Banking bill last week, just editorially, with no
18 amendments, is pretty incredible, so I could not agree more. Senator Murphy.

19 **SENATOR MURPHY.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to add my thanks to
20 Senator Young, Senator Shaheen, the chair, and the ranking member for trying to get us

1 to a resolution which we can really work through this issue on the committee. I think
2 having a hearing, really positive step forward. Making sure that we end up getting
3 legislation that can pass, get Republican and Democratic support, but also will change
4 the situation on the ground in Yemen is critical.

5 I do not think it is worthwhile for us to pass something that is going to have no
6 effect. It is going to have certifications that the Administration can very easily make
7 and allow for this situation to continue. And I think that is what we were trying to
8 work through this weekend is trying to find a way to get a resolution that has actual
9 teeth in it, that is going to cause the Saudis to do what they have been telling us they
10 were going to do for a long time, but just frankly have not. Change the way in which
11 they are operating this campaign to preserve civilian life and actually get to a political
12 settlement.

13 So, I really thank the chairman and ranking member for putting us on a path
14 where we can try to get something that ultimately can change the situation on the
15 ground. And I would argue the strong vote today in favor of, at the very least, debating
16 the question of whether or not we have proper statutory authorization to continue this
17 involvement will be part of what puts pressure on the Saudis to change their position.
18 But I just wanted to add my thanks.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Well, I hope we have a great debate, but do not discharge it
20 from the committee because, in essence, we will be weakening the United States Senate

1 if we do that. And I think the Administration's position is we are not involved in
2 conflict.

3 **SENATOR YOUNG.** Ten seconds. Since you made reference to the resolution, it
4 has been really good to work with you on this legislation. It is our job to oversee the
5 implementation of the resolution, proper vetting and certification process after the fact,
6 so there is no such thing as a perfect bill or perfect legislation. So, that is what gives us
7 leverage is ensuring this team vision.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Any other -- and thank you for your tremendous knowledge
9 about what is happening in Yemen.

10 With that, what I thought I would do is move to regular order that we have
11 before us. I would like to consider -- we checked with every office and had no
12 pushback on this. I would like to consider all of the legislative items together and agree
13 to all of the amendments. To my knowledge, everyone is in agreement with that. So,
14 without objection, let us do that.

15 The committee will consider H.R. 1660, S. Res. 85, S. Res. 224, S. Res. 376, S. Res.
16 426, S. Res. 429, and S. Res. 432, en bloc, and each of the noticed Corker amendments to
17 these items and the noticed Cardin amendment to S. Res. 376 and the noticed Johnson
18 amendment to S. Res. 432 will be considered approved.

19 Would any members like to give additional comments?

1 **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank everyone
2 for getting involved in this resolution regarding Burma and the horrific, horrific ethnic
3 cleansing that is going on there. Special thanks to the co-sponsor from the Republican
4 side, Senator Young, as well as five other Republicans who have joined in along with
5 the Democrats.

6 This issue of what is going on there is now -- the most recent reports is the
7 Government of Burma is going in, they are bulldozing those villages. They are starting
8 to build structures to prepare for non-Rohingya to reoccupy that land, kind of a -- if this
9 is not ethnic cleansing, I do not what in the world is not. We have systematic rape,
10 shooting, burning, slaughter of children, driving 700,000 people into Bangladesh.

11 Bangladesh has a big challenge. This resolution thanks them for opening their
12 doors, but realize they have no room. This is a country half the size of Oregon that is
13 Bangladesh, that part of the year half of that country is flooded, so it is a quarter the
14 size, and they have 160 million people living in Bangladesh already.

15 Calling and pushing for the ability, the appropriate ability to return to their
16 villages, be treated as full participants in Burma is the right thing to do. I appreciate
17 everyone stepping in to do this together. And let us keep pushing, and let us try to
18 ensure our executive branch also keeps pushing to highlight this, to show American
19 humanitarian leadership in the world and say this type of conduct is absolutely
20 unacceptable.

1 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Thanks for going to the area and your leadership
2 on this issue. Any other comments?

3 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** You are taking comments on any of the resolutions?

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes, ma'am.

5 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** I just want to, again, say I hope that we will pass the
6 resolution on International Women's Day. It was March the 8th. And I think it is
7 important to continue to recognize the role of women worldwide and the difference that
8 empowering women makes in our economic and national security interests. And
9 remind everybody that this is a bipartisan resolution and appreciate that Senator Collins
10 is co-sponsoring.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you, and thanks for your leadership as always. Any
12 other comments?

13 [No response.]

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** With that, is there a motion to approve H.R. 1660 and the
15 noticed resolutions, as amended by the noticed amendments, en bloc, by voice vote?

16 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

18 **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** Second.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** So moved and seconded. The question is on the motion to
20 approve H.R. 1660 and the noticed resolutions, as amended.

1 All in favor, say aye.

2 [A chorus of ayes.]

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

4 [No response.]

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** With that, the ayes have it and the legislation, as amended, is
6 approved.

7 Now we are going to move to the non-controversial nominations as I understand
8 them: Mr. Erik Bethel to be Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for
9 Reconstruction and Development; the Honorable Kevin Moley to be Assistant Secretary
10 of State for International Organization Affairs; the Honorable Josephine Olsen to be the
11 Director of the Peace Corps; Mr. Robert Pence to be Ambassador to Finland; Dr. Judy
12 Shelton to be the U.S. Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and
13 Development; Mr. Trevor Traina to be Ambassador to Austria; Ms. Andrea Thompson
14 to be Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security; Ms. Marie
15 Royce to be Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs; and the
16 Honorable Edward Charles Prado to be Ambassador to Argentina.

17 Is there a motion to approve these nominations, en bloc, by voice vote?

18 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second?

20

1 **SENATOR RISCH.** Second.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Moved and seconded. The question is on the motion to
3 approve the nominations.

4 All those in favor, say aye.

5 [A chorus of ayes.]

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Opposed?

7 [No response.]

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** With that, the ayes have it.

9 This completes our committee's business --

10 **SENATOR BOOKER.** Mr. Chairman, could I please be recognized as a no on
11 Andrea Thompson?

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Absolutely.

13 **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Mr. Chairman, myself as well.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay.

15 **SENATOR MERKLEY.** Thank you.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Without any other comments, this completes the committee's
17 business. I ask unanimous consent that staff be authorized to make technical and
18 conforming changes.

19

1 Without objection, so ordered.

2 With that, without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:04 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]